

Statement given to Pat Houtz, Huntsville Times, by Mr. Webb, by telephone May 28, 1965.

When I learned that the Alabama State Legislature and the Governor of Alabama were interested in visiting the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, I advised Dr. von Braun that I would expect to come down for that occasion.

In my view, it is extremely important that both the Legislature and the Governor fully understand the importance of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center operation to the success of the current United States effort in space and, also, the importance of our ability to work in that State in an environment conducive to the most effective utilization of our ablest scientists, engineers, technicians, and industrial contractors.

In my view, it is also very important to the future of Alabama and the South to recognize that the successful method of conducting advanced research and technology which has been worked out by Dr. von Braun, by the outstanding group of experts he has assembled, and the Blue Ribbon team of industrial contractors from all over the United States, whose work is supervised from the Marshall Space Flight Center, provides in its extension to other areas one of the greatest opportunities this region will ever have to learn to work successfully with every factor related to economic and industrial growth.

At the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, we are working with the most advanced forms of energy conversion in both very large amounts and very small amounts, with the most advanced forms of electronics for

the organization and control of large-scale systems and extensive efforts in science and technology, with very advanced use of new materials, and with a total systems engineering approach that pulls all of the factors required for success together, articulates them, and provides for the most complex but, at the same time, most reliable specialized machines and systems the human race has yet developed. The very existence of the capabilities for success which are required and which NASA has established at Huntsville offer great promise to the South, and their close relationship to others in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Florida means that many of the men and women in America who are most skilled in these advanced concepts and practices now live and work in the South. Under NASA practices, their skills can contribute to many advances throughout the region and will provide many opportunities for the future.

I hope very much the State Legislature and the Governor will enjoy their visit to Huntsville and will return home with a better and more complete understanding of the importance of these matters.

cc: PIO